

Back Home In Indiana Alliance

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The Back Home in Indiana Alliance has been formed to increase homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities in Indiana. The mission of the Alliance is to:

- . Create opportunities for people with disabilities to own their own homes
- . Support homeowners with disabilities to exercise control over decisions affecting their lives
- . Provide adequate and individually determined services and support to meet the needs of homeowners
- . Separate housing and support services
- . Evaluate on an ongoing basis, the outcomes of homeownership

There are a number of state and federal programs that provide financial and support services to create opportunities for people with disabilities to live in typical homes, in typical neighborhoods, dispersed throughout the community. These programs are designed to support an individual to live in a home of his or her own, as opposed to living in a congregate setting (e.g. group home). Summarized below are the primary resources to support a person with a disability.

Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS)- The BDDS is a point of entry for people with disabilities and family members to apply for individualized and congregate community living and residential services. Services provided include intake and service coordination for individuals needing support to live in their own homes (or with family members) and for those referred for group home and institutional services. The funding to provide support to adults to live in their own homes is available through Supported Living Services, offering financial assistance and personal support services. Financial assistance is available to supplement the individual's earned and unearned income (e.g. Employment Income, SSI and Social Security) and may be applied towards housing costs, including rent, mortgage payments, and utilities. Personal support services are based on the individual's needs and may include such things as personal assistance with budgeting, housekeeping, and transportation. Contact 1-800-545-7763 for the nearest BDDS office.

Indiana Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)- A second point of entry for individuals seeking in-home support services are the regional AAA's, offering both information and referral services. AAA coordinates the intake and case management for the following two programs:

Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE)- CHOICE is a state-funded program providing support to both people with disabilities and the elderly. Financial assistance for home modifications (e.g. ramps) and a variety

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of in-home supports (e.g. personal attendant care) may be obtained through this program. Up to \$15,000 for home modifications may be available within an individual's lifetime and may be used to supplement other funding.

Medicaid Waivers- In 1981 the federal government created the Title XIX Home and Community-Based Services Program to support the national trend toward moving people out of long-term care institutions and into the community. Referred to as Medicaid Waivers, this act made an exception to, or waived traditional Medicaid requirements for institutional care. The waivers made Medicaid funds available for home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional care. These funds are available to provide a wide range of services to support persons in their own homes, including services coordination, personal attendant care, and homemaker services. Medicaid waiver funds are not available to cover the costs associated with housing, such as mortgage or utility payments. However, waiver funds may be used for environmental modifications. Up to \$10,000 for environmental modifications may be available within an individual's lifetime.

To be eligible for waiver services, the person must meet the criteria required for admission to a long term care facility, state institution, or group home and must meet the guidelines for eligibility for the standard Medicaid program. Contact 1-800-986-3505 for the nearest AAA office.